

Jan. 2018 Newsletter

Happy New Year !

The Pigeon Genetics Newsletter, News, Views & Comments.
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(Founded by Dr. Willard .F. Hollander)

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"The latest updates from around the World brought to You Monthly"

TOPIC

This Issue we again will cover a number of Topics beginning with one that we have discussed before also , and which has been a popular topic for many years and that is the Black white side .

Tom Demunick has been working on this trait in his Canadian Show Tipplers.





The gene that causes a whiteside in Spread blue (Black) pigeons is either Tiger grizzle , or a form of Tiger grizzle according to those who have worked with it . It seems to require "Spread factor" in order to express. We can clearly see in Tom's birds that the young express a frosted effect on the head and neck area as well as the shoulder areas of the shields. Then after the moult , the frosted head and neck disappears unlike typical Tiger . The frosted feathers of the shield then grow in as pure white individual feathers typical of Tiger grizzle.

This trait also expresses on Ash-Reds and browns , but only in the presence of Spread factor.

Achieving the whole white shield without mismarkings is extremely difficult.



Mick Bassett photos of a Heterozygous Black Whiteside "Mottle wing" , and a homozygous Black Whiteside.

Selection is key to maintaining close to a correct marking , that almost always requires plucking for the show room entry.

I think that we also must look at the idea that when we introduce this trait into another Breed , care must be taken not to use birds that are either Classical Grizzle ., or the closely akin Print Grizzles. Spread factor Classical Grizzles are the typical "Pepper Heads", but some whiteside young are pepperheads .(1) Christain Reul photo

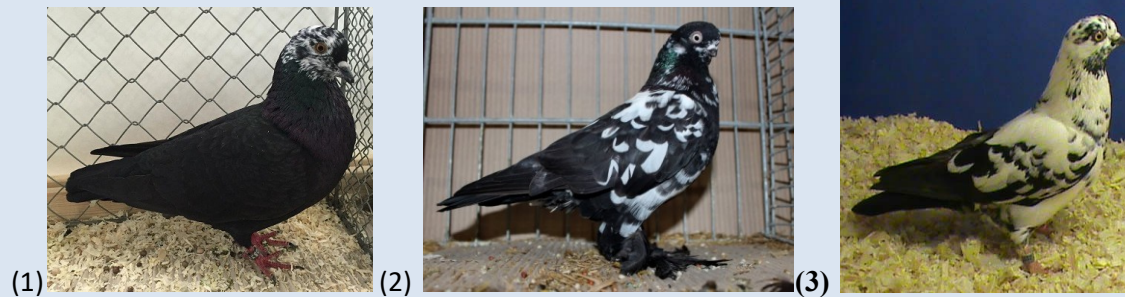


Photo (2) Hetero Tiger grizzle..Mick Basset , and (3) Homo Tiger grizzle - Steve Scott. None of these will ever produce a whiteside . That fact tells us that another gene or modifier is involved with the birds that do in fact result in mottled shields that can be selected toward a whiteside phenotype .

The roles that Dirty (V) factor , Sooty (So) , and in particular smoky (sy) play , probably have not received enough attention. The presence of saturated T-Pattern hidden by Spread factor (S) may also play a role in the amount of feathering that will later express as whole white feathers.



(1) Sat. T-Pattern print Grizzle , (2) Hetero Tiger grizzle, Basset. (3) Timisora Tiger grizzle -Michael Spadoni.

The Black whiteside youngsters show white in the first feathers in the nest . This trait therefore is genotypically and phenotypically different than the partial Dominant recessive red whiteside which is solid red in the nest and starts to moult to white shields with the first moult.

Understanding the grizzle family and their combinations , plus their reactions with not only Spread factor but also the darkest Patterns may hold some clues as to what exactly governs the grizzle expressions. If we look at other depigmenting genes we soon will note that the more "DARK" pigment

they have to de-pigment , the greater their whitening effects will be ! The Coarse spread hidden by the Spread factor gene expression, may explain why the activity of this specific form of grizzle whitens primarily the shield. Sooty may explain why the white easily goes out of bounds .

Below we take a look at just a few grizzle family expressions that have nothing to do with black whitesides.



This photo posted by both Ahmed Adib Khan and Sam Shah , Photo by Mazhar Baloch Kabootar .

Above , I believe that these are spread factor dark print Grizzles and not the typical whiteside gene (s) .



(1) Photo by Rahul Sayhay.

(2) Photo by Qafi's Loft.

You may expect that the youngsters in this first photo would follow the whiteside moult losing the white frosting on the head and neck and gaining whole white feathers, " mottled " to pure white shields, but it is more likely that they will retain and increase the white on the head and neck as well as mottle out on the shield , much in the same manner as the Racers in photo two, this is a Tiger grizzle trait.

Below are traits that resemble , but have nothing to do with the black whiteside phenotype .



(1) TS, Mick Basset, (2) Print grizzle NewBrunswick Show ,(3) Khaal - Ebic Sasi, (4) Pied -Mani Pigeons .

TOPIC

smoky factor (sy) from Mr. **Tugay Torun** post - Strictly colour genetics Facebook Group.



Hello , You can see two different pigeons above of the blue series. The pigeon in the first picture has no line between the body and the tail. It is completely blue while the second one has a line that separates the white area (body side) and the blue area (tail side) . I am curious about what causes this difference. Is there anyone who has any knowledge about this issue ? - Tugay.

Bob Rodgers - This example may also demonstrate one or two other aspects of two well known traits in Modifiers . They are smoky and Dirty factors. Out of curiosity , can you also send us photos of the outer tail feather of the tail of each bird please ? Here they appear to be without albescent strips . Notice that your hand and the entire background is rather foggy in colour in one photo while the other is perfectly clear also . Not that that changes much of anything in these examples , but sometimes it can create a false impression of true colour tones.

Tugay Torun - There is no albescent strips for both of them. However I can send new photos in the weekend.

John Rodgers I'm not an Expert , was the bird on the Left was it hatched nude / Naked ?? Bird on left is a Blue Indigo ?

Bob Rodgers I think that Indigo is not present in either. Both appear to be smoky factor , that is the main effect that we are seeing , however this opens the discussion that in some cases we will see typical traits for smoky such as lack of albescent back & rump and outer edges of tail rectrices along with a very light terminal band / tips of the tail feathers as displayed in the first bird (on left) but , we may see almost no albescent strips , and with lighter terminal tail band on some birds along with the albescent (whitish) back normally seen on wild type blues, as seen in this second bird . Hetero smoky may express in the terminal band . The second bird does appear to be hetero smoky factor. If we see a couple more photos, that may reveal the rest of the story. (Edited since the original comment).



Bird on the left , certainly homozygous smoky blue checker.

TOPIC

Is this whitish bird possible from these parents ?



This from Kamal Motaouakkel .. (my friend's pair & squabs). Is this possible in a closed breeding cage ?

Bob Rodgers - It is very difficult to see what colour the whitish one is . Do you have a better photo ?

Kamal El Motaouakkel - I see it as Almond Bob.

Bob Rodgers It would not be possible for any Dominant trait to come from the pair of Blue Bars ., unless one of those Blue Bars was in fact also that same trait but not expressing completely as such. Therefore very unlikely an Almond. So in that sense , the answer to your original question is NO ., not possible . It is possible that this is a Pied factor bird ., it may also be a brown series hen or a dilute blue series hen. It looks as if there may be a blue tail showing. The sibling has bleached or bronze-like bars , perhaps we are seeing bronze on the head and neck of the whitish looking bird . We need a better photo.





Bob Rodgers - Both young are Blue series , (the whitish one "may" also be a dilute). I am quite certain that the parents are both hetero for undergrizzle , and the young whitish one is homozygous for undergrizzle with residual bronze showing that will most likely disappear . This is an excellent example for those few who maintain that undergrizzle does not exist and is instead somehow part of the "pied" factor. The blue bar offspring may be het undergrizzle , or non- (Ug). In the case of the whitish one , it may moult out to be primarily a blue bar with just the white showing in the flights and perhaps the bar regions. I have bred a number of Indian Fantails that were similar to this in T-Pattern , and moulted to normal blue T-pattern. Some young were laced blue ,on every feather. Kamal El Motaouakkel - Thanks a lot Bob

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There are a few gene mutations that have rather unique reactions during the life of Pigeons. One reaction is for the mutation to become stronger in expression , darker in colour , more pronounced . A trait that does this is : Sooty , it may express as nothing more than a slight dark streak about 1/8 th. inch long along the mid-ribs of the shield feathers , but after each moult spread from there to eventually form a dark center to each feather extending toward the tips . It may also express as a slight darker lacing or smudge on each feather end that will darken as the



bird ages.

Mutations that whiten but allow reversion back to the original base pigment are : The Stipper family with varying degrees of whitish BREAK, that weakens with the age of the bird giving way to reversion to base pigment. Undergrizzle , may express as simply whitish feathers basally to almost a pure white bird but gives way to reversion to base pigment at the first moult.

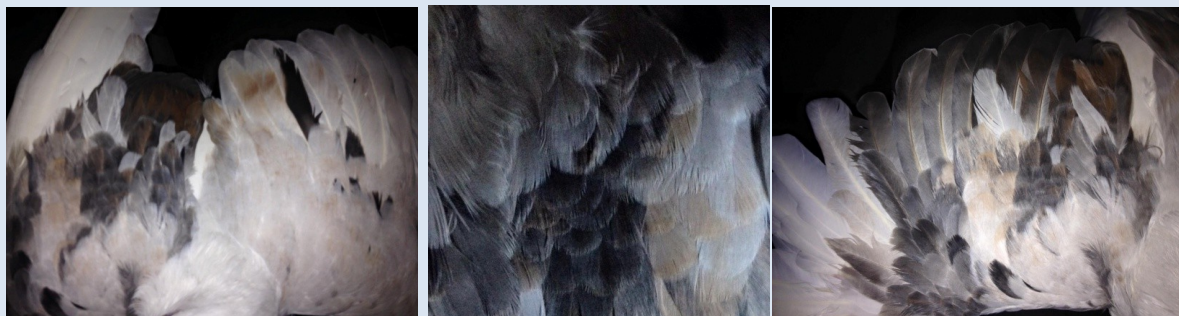
Mutations that start out not expressing at all, but make their presence known after the moult are: Recessive red whiteside, Krasnador Tumbler marking, Saraphim white , all begin as recessive reds and moult out to their respective red and white or pure white phenotypes. There are other examples we can address at another time.



# TOPIC

Mosaic .

Back in February 2016 **Anwarul Kabbir** posted this photo asking if it was a Mosaic. It is a saddle design Pied that has basically two differently coloured shields but also , as you can see, quite an array of variation going on.



This appears to be mainly a spread ash red (2) on the birds left and mainly a blue checker(3) on the birds right , our left. That would qualify it as a Mosaic. The question was , is it also an Almond , and while we can see what could be considered a "V" shape created by the white break in the middle top right secondary feather and a covert (1), this may be part of the Ash-red (2) het . blue (5) expression. Ts1 may also be present (4) . I do not think that the dark red and lighter red in the blue bar and the ash bar indicate that one is Intense and one dilute .

# TOPIC Another Chimera Mosaic ..

**Steve Shaw's** Parlor Roller Mosaic . Recessive red (hetero whiteside ?, undergrizzle?) and dilute Blue bar. 2017.

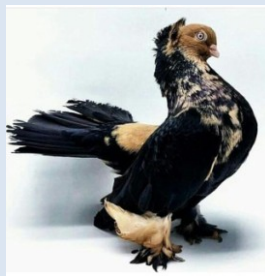


Others have observed that a very large number of Mosaics in many different Breeds are in fact Recessive reds or yellows often in combination with Spread blue /Black. This is not a predictable RULE , but certainly seems to be more frequent than what we would expect in a random situation.

Below is a Blue checker / Ash Spread or T-pattern Racer of Brian Cullen's 2015.



Next some Intense Spread blue /black and dilute combos..



**Ismail Haji** ----- **Thein Duong Bo Cau** ----- **Ricky Wilkinson** ---- **Abdalatef Alkfifei**

Spread blue /Ash T. , Spread blue / Khaki ., Spread blue Rec. Yellow , Black / Rec. Yellow

Your Comments :

I always enjoy the news letter and get many ideas and information from them, I would also like to wish all a very Merry Xmas and festive season, best wishes to all , **Allan Makin** , Australia.

Hello, thank you for sending me a newsletter. I'm also interested in the older issue. It's very nice. **Jiří Suda**, Czech Republic .

Thank you for the wonderful work you do collecting material and producing the Pigeon Genetics News Letter.....even if I do not get to contribute these days I read it with joy to think others are carrying on the work or should I say interest that started so long ago. It is now over 57 years since I first became enamored with my birds . My warmest good wishes to you and yours and to our other Fanciers.

You have guessed by now that I no longer have my much loved pigeons..The dreaded alviolitis reared its ugly head in the early 1990's when I was able to return to my birds after a spell away from them, and please believe me the second time around is even better. However the later and continuing damage to the oxygen receptors of my lungs (despite industrial masks) finally meant that as my seventieth birthday approached , health problems had become rather dire. You will know , I am sure that the anaphylactic shock became so frequent and life threatening, that cessation became imperative. So we sold our beautiful property and re-homed many of our birds and moved to the tiny hamlet of Winchester about 100 miles south to a slightly smaller property of half an acre where I could pursue my other passion , hand - pollinating and raising Hostas. Fourteen years later that is where we are , somewhat more wobbly on our feet but loving what we have .... this in spite of years of longing to just hold a healthy - smelling pigeon chick with its pin feathers just breaking through. Those longings are now behind me as I press forward with the raising and evaluating of the seedling plants. So , to those of our Group who might develop Bird - Breeders Lung disease , there is life after , even if somewhat precarious . Be ever on the forward path and love what you do , but never lose your positivity and respect for life-sanctity in all its forms . My, I have gone on , and here I must admit how I love to read your excellent Newsletters and the wonderful pictures ... I apologise that I cannot actively contribute these days .... it is however wonderful to watch the progress of others .

**Madelon Balfour - Gilligan** , Maddren Homestead, New Zealand.

Hi Bob, Many thanks for that, and for publishing my info; much appreciated. Hopefully some readers have some ideas what it can be. As you probably know, in September 1997 Paul G. published a 'special issue' PG Newsletter; Color genetics of the Ringneck Dove. I wonder whether you've considered to include 'Ringneck Genetics' in future Newsletters. All the best and very Happy Holidays to you too, and a great New Year. Cheers. Hein. UK . (**Hein Van Grouw**)

HI: Look forward to each issue, great job. THANK YOU---**CHARLIE BARBIERE**.

Dear Bob, Thank you so much .The newsletter is highly informative and helping us to scientifically pair birds as per their color mutation.

Warm regards **Ranjith Balram** , India .

**TOPIC** Opal /reduced/Indigo /Spread blue.



Steve's bird and .....



.A reduced blue by : **Rudi Lombaard**.



Steve's youngster and - Young reduced Andalusian ( if I have my info correct ) , by **Barry McPhee**.



**Steve Shaw** wrote in our Strictly Colour Genetics Facebook Group : March 31st. 2014 ....

I have Indigo , reduced, and Dom. Opal in my Parlor Tumblers. Not sure what these two inherited but I like what I see. Feel free to offer ideas.

Bob Rodgers - Perhaps Dirty Spread blue/black, Dominant Opal. I do not think reduced . ??

Steve do you have a photo update on these , I wonder if they turned out to be Opalusians ?

That is it until Feb. 1, Hope your nests are full!

Bob , Canada , Jith, India.